

specification, amend claims 1-13, and add new claims 14-17. Claims 1-17 are currently pending.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy extended to Applicants' representative during an Interview on April 3, 2003 to discuss amendments to the specification for correcting minor grammatical errors. Accordingly, Applicants have amended the specification consistent with the Examiner's comments.

Amendments to the Specification

As noted above, Applicants have amended the specification to correct minor grammatical errors. In addition, Applicants have amended the specification to clarify the well known characteristics of instant messaging services and instant messages.

Rejection of claims 1-12

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Glaser. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1, as amended, recites a combination of steps including, for example, "transmitting to the user, through a real-time, non-persistent communication channel that is established by the instant messaging service, a notification indicating the configuration of the connection for the at least one communication device." Glaser fails to teach at least this limitation of claim 1.

Although Glaser discloses providing "status messages" in real-time (See Glaser, col. 20, lines 36-49), these status messages are not transmitted through a communication channel that is established by an instant messaging service. Instead, Glaser's status messages are records transmitted through an "internal database" system that translates the

status messages into a suitable form for a managed subsystem, such as a switch. (See Glaser, col. 16, line 55 through col. 17, line 6.) Sending such status messages through an internal database in Glaser is not the same as “transmitting to the user, through a real-time, non-persistent communication channel that is established by the instant messaging service, a notification indicating the configuration of the connection for the at least one communication device,” as recited in claim 1. Therefore, Glaser fails to teach all the limitations of amended claim 1 and its respective dependent claims 2-4.

In addition, claim 5, as amended, now recites a computer readable medium capable of configuring a computer to perform a combination of steps including, for example, “transmitting to the user, through a real-time, non-persistent communication channel that is established by the instant messaging service, a notification indicating the configuration of the connection for the at least one communication device.” Claim 9, as amended, now recites an apparatus that includes, for example, a “means for transmitting to the user, through a real-time, non-persistent communication channel that is established by the instant messaging service, a notification indicating the configuration of the connection for the at least one communication device.” As explained above, Glaser fails to teach “transmitting to the user, through a real-time, non-persistent communication channel that is established by the instant messaging service, a notification indicating the configuration of the connection for the at least one communication device.” Therefore, for the reasons explained above, Glaser also fails to teach at least these limitations of amended claims 5 and 9 and their respective dependent claims 6-8 and 10-12.

Accordingly, since Glaser fails to teach all the limitations of claims 1-12, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection to claims 1-12.

Rejection of claim 13

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by O'Neal. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 13, as amended, now recites a unified communication manager that includes for example, a “means for transmitting to the user, through a real-time, non-persistent communication channel that is established by the instant messaging service, a notification that indicates the configuration of the connection.” O'Neal fails to teach at least this limitation of claim 13.

Instead, O'Neal discloses storing messages in files at a web server and transmitting emails to a user. (See O'Neal, col. 8, lines 23-41.) A web server sending such emails is not the same as a “means for transmitting to the user, through a real-time, non-persistent communication channel that is established by the instant messaging service, a notification that indicates the configuration of the connection,” as recited in claim 13. Therefore, O'Neal fails to teach all the limitations of amended claim 13. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection to claim 13.

New Claims 14-17

New claims 14-16 depend from claim 1. Therefore, new claims 14-16 are allowable for at least the same reasons that claim 1 is allowable, as well as for their additional features.

New claim 17 recites a combination of steps including, for example, “transmitting to the user, through a real-time, non-persistent communication channel that is established by the instant messaging service, a notification that indicates the configuration of the connection for the at least one communication device.” As explained above, neither Glaser

nor O'Neal teach such a limitation. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 17 is also allowable over the cited references.

CONCLUSION

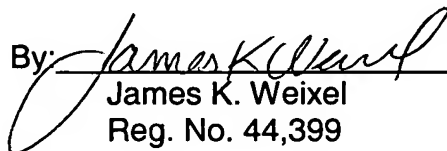
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by this Amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Version with markings to show changes made.**" Deletions appear as normal text surrounded by [] and additions appear as underlined text.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Amendment, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 07-2339.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend at pages 1-2, paragraph number 002, as follows:

"The present application also relates to U.S. Patent Application No. (10/083,792), entitled "VOICE MAIL INTEGRATION WITH INSTANT MESSENGER" Attorney Docket No. 01 -1001; U.S. Patent Application No. (10/083,884), entitled "DEVICE INDEPENDENT CALLER ID," Attorney Docket No. 01-1002; U.S. Patent Application No. (10/095,390), entitled "METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CONTEXT BASED QUERYING," Attorney Docket No. 01 -1005; U.S. Patent Application No. (10/083,793), entitled "METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CALENDARED COMMUNICATIONS FLOW CONTROL," Attorney Docket No. 01 -1007; U.S. Patent Application No. (10/084,121), entitled "CALENDAR-BASED CALLING AGENTS," Attorney Docket No. 01 -1008; U.S. Patent Application No. (10/083,798), entitled "METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR INTEGRATED BILLING VIA PDA," Attorney Docket No. 01-1010; and U.S. Patent Application No. (10/084,002), entitled "METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DIAL STREAM ANALYSIS," Attorney Docket No. 01-1013, and all of which are expressly incorporated herein by reference in their entirety."

Please amend at page 6, paragraph number 020, as follows:

"Methods and apparatus for unified communication management via instant messaging are provided. A unified communication manager receives from a data network one or more rules for responding to telephone calls. In particular, a user may interface with the unified communication manager using an instant messaging service to manage various

aspects of the user's communication such as phone calls, email, and instant messages. A user may also use the manager to manage contact information and profile information, such as rules for how communications are forwarded to the user. Thus, the user is provided with a unified communication manager to implement rules and conditions across a wide variety of devices and networks."

Please amend at page 9, paragraph number 28, as follows:

"User terminal 112 also allows user 110 to communicate with service center 106. For example, user 110 may use instant messaging ("IM") to communicate with service center 106. IM is a communications service implemented over the Transmission Control Protocol and Internet Protocol ("TCP/IP") suite to create a private communication channel. As is well known to those skilled in the art, instant messaging provides communications transmitted in real-time over a non-persistent communication channel that is established by an instant messaging service. Although there is no accepted universal IM standard, an appropriate IM model may be found in RFC 2778, M. Day et al., The Internet Society (2000), titled "A Model for Presence and Instant Messaging," which describes, *inter alia*, a model for providing instant messaging services. There are presently several known IM [systems] services including America OnLine Instant Messenger ("AIM") and Microsoft Network Messenger Service ("MSNMS"). In addition to IM services, user terminal 112 may use other aspects of TCP/IP including the hypertext transfer protocol ("HTTP"); the user datagram protocol ("UDP"); the file transfer protocol ("FTP"); the hypertext markup language ("HTML"); and the extensible markup language ("XML")."

Please amend at page 12, paragraph number 040, as follows:

"Figs. 3a-3m illustrate exemplary screen shots of user interfaces to implement voice [main] mail integration with instant messenger. As shown in Fig. 3a, the screen shot provides a current location portion 300 for indicating that communications should be directed to the "AT HOME" location. Current location 300 may also indicate other locations, such as, for example, "AT WORK, "IN CAR", and "ON TRAVEL." Such locations can be based on predetermined choices or user-configurable choices. The screen shot also provides a new message portion 302 that lists the number and type of new messages. In particular, new message portion 302 shows that there is "1 New EMAIL", "2 NEW VOICE MAILS", "2 NEW NOTIFICATIONS", and "3 NEW CALLS RECEIVED". New message portion 302 can also provide the last phone numbers dialed and the date they were dialed.

Please amend at page 19, paragraph number 061, as follows:

"Security server 462 can provide security checks on incoming calls, such as checking if the [caller] call is wanted or unwanted. Call control server 464 can control calls, performing actions such as call forwarding based on user set preferences. Conferencing server 466 can create conference calls by using a calendar-based system to notify a user 110 of a conference call and then making the call connections. Speech processing server 468 can perform speech processing, allowing a user to verbally [communicated] communicate with the unified communication manager. Remote computing server 470 can manage and perform remote computing services. Back office server 472 can perform back office functions such as controlling billing and managing user profiles. LDAP directory server 474 can perform directory lookups by interfacing with SCP 600 and can be used for

controlling the [look up] lookup of Caller-ID information in configuration database 614.

Messaging server 476 can be an IM messaging server to control the sending of IM messages to the user terminal 112 of user 110. Calendar/contact management server 478 can be a set of calendaring software that manages all the calendared entries of the user 100. Profile and personalization management server 480 can perform the management and control of service center database 108 and initialing and updating user profile information.”

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-13, as follows:

1. (Once Amended) A method for managing communication devices associated with a [telephone] voice network[,] and a data network using at least one unified communication manager and an instant messaging service, [and] wherein the at least one unified communication manager is connected to both the [telephone] voice network and the data network, the method performed by the unified communication manager comprising:

receiving [an instant] a message from [a] the user containing at least a request to configure at least one of the communication devices;

configuring a connection for the at least one [of the] communication [devices] device based on information in the [instant] message; and

[providing] transmitting to the user, through a real-time, non-persistent communication channel that is established by the instant messaging service, a notification [of] indicating the configuration of the connection for the at least one [of the] communication device [devices, the user notification being displayed on a display device for the user].

2. (Once Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein [providing] transmitting to the user the notification comprises: [providing the user notification using an instant message]

determining whether the user is currently connected to the instant messaging service; and

transmitting to the user an instant message that includes notification of the configuration of the connection for the at least one communication device.

3. (Once Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein configuring a connection [of at least one communication device] comprises receiving signaling information [from] via the voice network.

4. (Once Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein configuring a connection [of at least one communication device] comprises receiving information [from] via the data network.

5. (Once Amended) A computer readable medium capable of configuring a computer to perform a method of managing communication devices associated with a [telephone] voice network[,] and a data network using at least one unified communications manager and an instant messaging service, [and] wherein the at least one unified communication manager is connected to both the [telephone] voice network and the data network, the method performed by the unified communication manager comprising:

receiving [an instant] a message from a user containing at least a request to configure at least one of the communication devices;

configuring a connection for the at least one [of the] communication [devices] device based on information in the [instant] message; and

[providing] transmitting to the user, through a real-time, non-persistent communication channel that is established by the instant messaging service, a notification [of] indicating the configuration of the connection for the at least one [of the] communication device [devices, the user notification being displayed on a display device for the user].

6. (Once Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 5, wherein [providing] transmitting to the user the notification comprises: [providing the user notification using an instant message]

determining whether the user is currently connected to the instant messaging service; and

transmitting to the user an instant message that includes notification of the configuration of the connection for the at least one communication device.

7. (Once Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 5, wherein configuring a connection [of at least one communication device] comprises receiving signaling information [from] via the voice network.

8. (Once Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 5, wherein configuring a connection [of at least one communication device] comprises receiving information [from] via the data network.

9. (Once Amended) An apparatus [Apparatus] for managing communication devices associated with a [telephone] voice network[,], and a data network using at least one unified communication manager and an instant messaging service, [and] wherein the at least one unified communication manager is connected to both the [telephone] voice network and the data network, the unified communication manager comprising:

means for receiving [an instant] a message from a user containing at least a request to configure at least one of the communication devices;

means for configuring a connection for the at least one [of the] communication [devices] device based on information in the [instant] message; and

means for [providing] transmitting to the user, through a real-time, non-persistent communication channel that is established by the instant messaging service, a notification [of] indicating the configuration of the connection for the at least one [of the] communication device [devices, the user notification being displayed on a display device for the user].

10. (Once Amended) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the means for [providing] transmitting to the user the notification comprises: [the means for providing the user notification using an instant message]

means for determining whether the user is currently connected to the instant messaging service; and

means for transmitting to the user an instant message that includes notification of the configuration of the connection for the at least one communication device.

11. (Once Amended) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the means for configuring a connection [of at least one communication device] comprises [the] means for receiving signaling information [from] via the voice network.

12. (Once Amended) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the means for configuring a connection [of at least one communication device] comprises [the] means for receiving information [from] via the data network.

13. (Once Amended) A unified communication manager for managing communications of a user based on using an instant messaging service, comprising:

means for receiving a message from a data network reflecting one or more rules for establishing telephone calls to a [particular] user; [and]

means for configuring a connection for establishing the telephone calls to the [particular] user in accordance with the [rule(s)] rules, including forwarding calls when necessary to one or more terminals associated with the user based on stored user profile information; and

means for transmitting to the user, through a real-time, non-persistent communication channel that is established by the instant messaging service, a notification that indicates the configuration of the connection.